

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/781,636

Examiner

Jennifer Doan

Applicant(s)

OIKAWA, YOICHI

Art Unit

2874

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 02/09/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Jennifer Doan*  
**JENNIFER DOAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
*04/24/06*

## **EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment, filed on February 9, 2006, has been fully considered and entered.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

2. Claims 1-5 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Terminal Disclaimer, filed on February 9, 2006, is effective to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection under copending application No. 10/786,082, now U.S. Patent 6,999,648.

The prior art of record fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical cross-connect apparatus for performing non-blocking optical cross-connection of  $n$  WDM input optical signals each containing  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  comprising  $n$  first wavelength converters for converting the  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  contained in the WDM input optical signals into  $2m$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_{2m}$ ; a second wavelength converters for converting the  $2m$  wavelengths contained in the optical signals cross-connected by the first wavelength cross-connector into  $2m$  and a third wavelength converters for converting the  $2m$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_{2m}$

Art Unit: 2874

contained in the optical signals cross-connector in combination with the other limitations of claims 1-3.

The prior art of record also fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical cross-connect apparatus for performing non-blocking optical cross-connection of  $n$  WDM input optical signals each containing  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$ , the apparatus comprising  $n$  input-side wavelength converters for converting the  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  contained in the WDM input optical signals into  $mn$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_{mn}$  and  $n$  output-side wavelength converters for converting the  $mn$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_{mn}$  contained in the optical signals cross-connected by the wavelength cross-connector into  $m$  wavelength  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  and for sending the  $m$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  in combination with the other limitations of claim 4.

The prior art of record also fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical cross-connect apparatus for performing non-blocking optical cross-connection of  $n$  WDM input optical signals each containing  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$ , the apparatus comprising  $n$  input-side wavelength converters for converting the  $m$  different wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  contained in the WDM input optical signals into  $m$  wavelengths and  $n$  output-side wavelength converters for converting the  $m$  wavelengths contained in the optical signals cross-connected by the wavelength cross-connector into  $m$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  and for sending the  $m$  wavelengths  $\lambda_1$  through  $\lambda_m$  in combination with the other limitations of claim 5.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2346. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 6:00am to 3:30pm, second Friday off.
5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2874

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JENNIFER DOAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JD

April 21, 2006